GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4645
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
PRICES OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS
PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the prices of essential drugs under price control / MRP act so that the poor people can afford them ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not controlling the prices under Essential Commodities Act ;

(c) whether the MNCs are controlling / regulating the prices of essential drugs ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard ?

Answer

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (Shri S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (e) : Prices of bulk drugs and formulations are fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955). Government haverecently announced the `Pharmaceutical Policy-2002`. The main objectives ofthis policy are, inter-alia, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the National Essential Drugs List and those considered important from the point of view of their use invarious Health Programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.